

The day after a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what sort of government we have, he answered, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Beginning on December 7 of this year, five States, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut, ratified it in quick succession; but other States opposed the document saying it failed to provide basic protections like freedom of religion, speech and the press.

In February of 1788 a compromise was reached under which Massachusetts and the other States would agree to ratify the document with the assurance that the amendments would be immediately proposed: The Bill of Rights.

Nearly a year later the Constitution was ratified by the required 9 out of 13 States.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the rule of law and the success of a great experiment, representative democracy, the core principles upon which this Nation was built, laid out in a single document: The Constitution, the oldest enduring written national Constitution in the world, the granddaddy of them all.

WE NEED A NEW TRADE POLICY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, congratulation to President Bush on a perfect record: 32 straight months of job loss; 32 straight months of industrial manufacturing job loss and yet another record trade deficit. This is something that will be hard for anybody to match, the disastrous trade policies of this Nation.

We are hemorrhaging \$1.5 billion a day of wealth from the United States overseas, \$1 million a minute, more than 1,000 jobs a day are being exported. The President likes to talk about the wealth and benefits of exporting. Yes, there are tremendous wealth and benefits in exporting, particularly exporting jobs at the bidding of multi-national corporations who are so generous when campaign time comes around.

Yes, they are feigning concern down there at the White House because they know there is an election coming and the money cannot take care of all the problems. So they are pretending they do not know where these jobs have gone and they have decided to change the flow chart at the Commerce Department and make one politically appointed bureaucrat responsible for finding out where they went and rectifying the situation.

All we need now is a new trade policy.

AMERICAN MILITARY PROVIDES HOPE TO IRAQIS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I returned from a delegation to Iraq organized by the Committee on Armed Services' ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

We visited with troops from Baghdad to Al Hillah in the south to Mosul in the north, hearing directly from the heroes who have won the war and are now winning the peace in the war on terror.

These dedicated warriors have trained over 60,000 new Iraqi security forces and initiated over 6,000 community development programs for hospitals, schools, electrical transmission, business development and road improvements. Led by Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, they are allied with over 20,000 personnel in Iraq from nations all over the world.

I was inspired by the development of democracy promoted by courageous mayors, governors, council members, and an Islamic religious university dean who is a descendent of Mohammed.

We also met with Ambassador Paul Bremer, who clearly has recruited a competent team, including Colombians George Wolfe and Chris Harvin, to successfully promote democracy.

A vital part of the war on terror is success in Iraq, and we have the right components of capable troops, local stalwarts for democracy, and a visionary Coalition Provisional Authority.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

WINNING THE PEACE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern over the Bush administration's continued failure to broker an alliance with the international community and to win the peace in Iraq.

Week after week administration officials have continued to reiterate that heightened international involvement is forthcoming. During his address on September 8, President Bush stated that we are committed to expanding international cooperation and reconstruction and security for Iraq.

But week after week, it is American taxpayers who are shouldering the financial burden of our military engagement, and it is American servicemen and women who are paying with their lives.

Since the war began on March 20, 456 service members have been killed, both in combat and noncombat operations, and more than 2,400 have been wounded, many of them very seriously. But we know now that this cannot be sustained. Just last week the Congressional Budget Office released a report that stated the Army lacks sufficient active duty forces to maintain the current 150,000 troop strength in Iraq beyond next spring.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we internationalize the Iraqi campaign by presenting a viable U.N. resolution. Every passing week means billions of dollars and more American lives.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION WEEK

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, this is Constitution Week. What should we celebrate?

The purpose of America's Constitution is to establish a government based upon the rule of law, a republic.

Our Constitution was designed to secure the rights and liberties of the people by specifically defining what the Federal Government can and cannot do.

I always carry a copy of the Constitution. It is a short document. Read the Constitution and you will search in vain for most of what the Federal Government does. Activities not in the Constitution are supposed to be reserved to the States and to the people.

Estimates by the Congressional Budget Office predict that the amortized budget deficit this year will exceed \$500 billion. The actual deficit is about \$200 billion higher because under the unified budget we are spending the trust fund surpluses.

My bill, H.R. 1725, would increase the accountability of the Federal Government and encourage more Americans to vote. H.R. 1725 would move the IRS filing deadline to the first Monday in November. That is the day before elections. I believe that Americans would choose smaller government as specified in the Constitution if they filed their tax return on Monday and voted on Tuesday.

AMERICA SUFFERS WHEN BAD DECISIONS ARE MADE

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I marvel at the degree of party discipline in the majority and the degree to which they insist on the correctness of their positions. The majority does not want to admit that fighting terrorism requires sacrifice. They do not want to admit that the U.N. can actually help us. They do not want to admit that we may have to go hat in hand to other countries to ask for financial and diplomatic help. They do not want to admit that our leaders did an inadequate job of planning for the post-Saddam occupation and transition to democracy in Iraq.

They do not want to admit that exorbitant tax cuts are not stimulating the economy and, in fact, are costing Americans jobs.

Some may think it is weakness to admit mistakes, but many Americans